

## PROTECTION

The State Landfill Law, also sponsored by the Special Legislative Commission on Ground Water Needs for Long Island, is another state-level land use control. The Long Island Land Fill Law, ECL 27.0704, prohibits the siting of new or expansion of existing solid waste municipal landfills within the deep flow recharge areas. It gradually phases out the continued disposal of municipal solid wastes in existing landfills in the deep flow recharge areas and, eventually, anywhere in Nassau and Suffolk counties, Connecticut. Connecticut's land use control program is closely linked to its ground water classification system. This system, which was implemented in 1980, classified all of the state's land area into one of four ground water classes as described previously in the section on "Classification Systems" earlier in this chapter.

In the Connecticut system, land use activities are controlled by the discharge permit program. For instance, in Classes GAA and GA no industrial waste discharge permits can be issued, which in effect prohibits certain potentially contaminating industries and other land uses. However, not all sources of ground water contamination are addressed through the permit program. For instance, septic tanks and chemical storage tanks are not restricted in any of the land classifications.

The Connecticut system has only been fully operational for about two years and is still undergoing adjustment. It is therefore too early to make a good evaluation of its effectiveness. However, it does appear to have some effective characteristics. From a land use control perspective, it has been used to close some landfills and to exclude siting of other new landfills and discharging industries.

Some of the features of this system that make it effective are as follows:

- Land use controls are used in direct combination with aquifer classification and discharge permitting. It is this combination, not the land use restrictions by themselves, that works well.
- The state had a very strong hydrogeologic data base because of the cooperative program with the USGS, which enabled the classification system to be implemented.
- The state has a strong high-level commitment to ground water protection with capable leadership and supportive resources.
- Connecticut also has an active program to work directly with industry and local communities to understand and use the system properly.

The land use controls of the Connecticut classification system provide a useful tool for protecting ground water, the full implications of which have not yet been fully realized. According to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), it has now become the basis for enforcement strategies.